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EXCALIBUR

WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE WITH
KITTY?!

BURP!



MARK ISAN / MERRY



EXCALIBUR * Vol. 1, No. 2, November, 1988. Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY. James E. Galt, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President. Production OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10015. Published monthly. Copyright © 1988 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.50 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.00 in Canada. Subscription rate \$18.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, \$24.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. EXCALIBUR (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.



PERHAPS WE SHOULD TRY HIDE-'N'-SEEK INSTEAD OF TAG--

--BUT YOU'D PROBABLY JUST SWALLOW THE WHOLE SILLY FACTORY.





...YOU'LL WISH YOU--
AND THIS CREW OF
INCOMPETENT
CLOWNS--

--HAD
VANISHED
WITH
HIM!

HOWLS AND SHRIEKS--
AND, FINALLY,
SCREAMS-- FADE
INTO THE DISTANCE...

... AND
SILENCE
REIGNS...

...UNTIL...

ping!

COLIN

?

FRIEND

?

SAFE

?

COLIN

FRIEND

SAFE

COLIN
FRIEND
SAFE

COLIN FRIEND
SAFE COLIN FRIEND
SAFE COLIN
FRIEND SAFE--

--oh, GOSH
oh, GOLLY
oh
WOW!

MEANWHILE...

...ABOUT SIX HUNDRED
KILOMETERS AND CHANGE
SLIGHTLY SOUTHWARD...

...IN THE HOB'S
END STATION OF
THE LONDON
UNDERGROUND...

GANGWAY!

STAN LEE PRESENTS

A WARWOLF POSSESSED

**WAR-
WOLVES
BUSTIN'
THROUGH!**

WAAAAAEE

CHOVE

EXCALIBUR

CHRIS
CLAREMONT
WRITER

ALAN
DAVIS
PENCILER

PAUL
NEARY
INKER

GLYNIS
OLIVER
COLORIST

TOM
ORZECZOWSKI
LETTERER

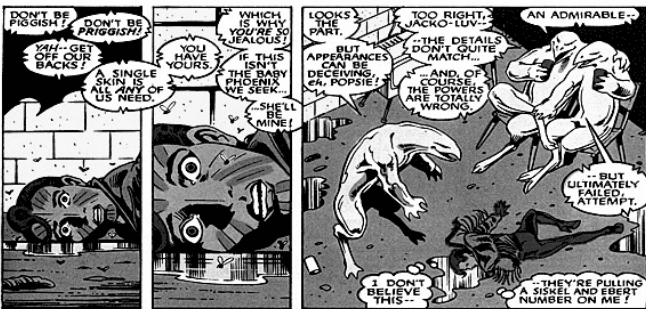
TERRY KAVANAGH, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO,
EDITOR IN CHIEF

CLAREMONT
& DAVIS
CREATORS











CAPTAIN--
--WHAT'S SHE DOING--
--WHERE'S SHE GONE?!

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE HELD HER BACK...

...SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO SHADOWCAT.



OH!!
AN' 'OO'S GOIN' TER PAY FER THIS LOT, eh?!

I DON'T CARE WHAT'CHER CALL YERSELF, MATEY--



--YOU GOT NO CALL DESTROYING PUBLIC PROPERTY!
WE'LL PUT THINGS RIGHT.

THAT YOU WILL, MY LAD.

SO--WE'VE CRIPPLED OUR FOES...



BY CHIMING ONE OF EXCALIBUR FOR OUR OWN.

STRANGE OCCASION FOR A SMILE.
AND A MASTY ONE IN THE BARGAIN..



MEANWHILE...
HURRY UP!
TRY IT ON!

WE WANT TO SEE HOW YOU LOOK!



NEXT TIME, CAN I STEAL CAPTAIN BRITAIN'S SKIN? I NEVER GET ANYTHING DECENT!!

AREN'T YOU EVER SATISFIED, GREEDY-GUTS --eh?!

HERE'S THE COSTUME--



--WHERE'S THE SKIN?!!



PRICELESS!! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE SO SMART! WE'RE SO SUPERIOR! MAY MAY ALWAYS TELLING US HOW TO BEHAVE goggle!



BUT WE HAVE OUR SKINS chavvy AND YOU DON'T gulfaw!



SHE-- SHE MUST HAVE TRICKED ME!

Uh-huh RIGHT? WHATEVER YOU SAY IF YOU INSIST HAS TO BE FER SURE!

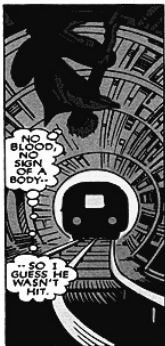
WHAT A MARGON!

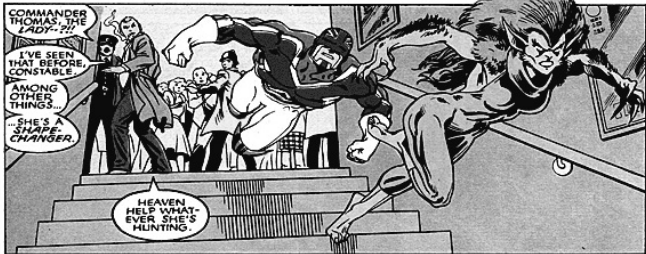


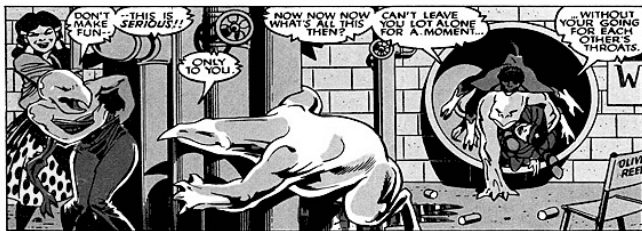
WOLFEN























OPEN--
WIDE,
YOU
SLUDGE!

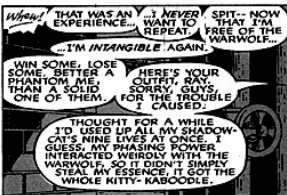
SAY, "AHHHH!"
"CAUSE,
LIKE IT
OR NOT--
--I'M COMING
THROUGH!!



KITTY--!
STAY OUTTA
THIS, RAY!
YOU'VE
DONE
ENOUGH--
--I'VE GOTTA
FINISH 'EM
ON MY OWN!

FIRST
BODY'S
BAG--...NOW THIS--
--SO HELP ME...
IF I GET
SWALLOWED
...BY
ANOTHER
CRITTER--!

*SEE EXCALIBUR
SPECIAL EDITION #1 -- T.K.



When! THAT WAS AN
EXPERIENCE... ...I NEVER
WANT TO
REPEAT.
SPIT-- NOW
THAT I'M
FREE OF THE
WARWOLF--
...I'M INTANGIBLE AGAIN.

WIN SOME, LOSE
SOME BETTER
THAN A SOLID
ONE OF THEM.

HERE'S YOUR
OUTFIT, RAY.
SORRY, GUYS,
FOR THE TROUBLE
I CAUSED.

THOUGHT FOR A WHILE
I'D USED UP ALL MY SHADOW-
CAT'S NINE LIVES AT ONCE. I
GUESS, MY PHASING POWER
INTERACTED WEIRDLY WITH THE
WARWOLF, SO IT DIDN'T SIMPLY
STEAL MY ESSENCE, IT GOT THE
WHOLE KITTY-- KABOODLE.



RAY HELPED ME KEEP MY
CONSCIOUSNESS COHESIVE, AND
THEN I FOUND I COULD INFLUENCE
THE 'WOLF'S ACTIONS-- AND
ULTIMATELY, CONTROL THEM



SORT OF
LIKE I WAS
THE DEMON,
POSSESSING
"HER".

BUT
WHAT
DO
WE
DO
WITH
THEM?

THEY AREN'T
EVEN REMOTELY
HUMAN, HOW
DO WE BRING
THEM TO TRIAL?

WHAT KIND
OF PRISON
CAN HOLD
THEM?

I
THINK...

...I HAVE...
...THE
PERFECT
SOLUTION.







% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
MICHAEL ROCKWITZ
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Well, folks, it's rare that the second issue of a comic book can actually have letters on its letters page, but thanks to the EXCALIBUR Bookshelf Format Edition, we're off to a running start even here...

Dear Marvel,

The "ex-X-Men" — I am impressed. EXCALIBUR was superb, which is as much as I expect from Claremont! No one gets as many things connecting together so smoothly. Keep writing and I will keep reading.

The team, as a whole, has a style that I like because it has a tactical leader. The pure power of the team cannot be denied with Phoenix around. The strength is possessed by Captain Britain and the whole team is very quick. They can all fly or perform similar acts — which is perfect for "hit-and-run" tactics. I also think that there is a lot of room for Claremont to work his magic with the development of each individual character.

I am glad to see Nightcrawler leading Excalibur — he has a strong, strategic mind. Though not specifically trained to lead the X-Men by Professor X — like Scott was — he has a lot of the same qualities. Ones I miss — since Chris isn't writing X-FACTOR. I also love the return of my favorite character, the Phoenix. What awesome power! I love Rachel's "hound face," especially page 27, panel 1 — incredible! I am very pleased with Phoenix's costume. I hope you keep it. I am glad to see Shadowcat hit someone with force. Her character seems a bit dull and lacking.

I don't know much about Captain Britain and Meggan, though I have seen them before. Meggan seems to have a lot of room for development. I have not yet found a reason to be impressed with Captain Britain. I am used to Rogue and Colossus being the strength of the mutant team, and they are both great characters. Is Captain Britain supposed to be a symbol of justice and good? It appears so on page 38, panel 6 — the way the white light shines out from behind him. That I like. I hope it is part of his character.

The Warwolves? Great! They look like something that would try to track the Phoenix. I might have liked to see them rip something apart. You know, splash some blood around. I liked the Majestrix's mob of bounty hunters. A very tough group for the Excalibur team who is not yet used to working together. The fact that they won is a credit to Nightcrawler. All of the villains are outstanding.

The villains I'd like to see go up against Excalibur are — Kulan Gath, Mesmero, Magneto, of course, and the Sentinels and Nimrod are my favorites.

I'd like to see the ranks of Excalibur filled out by — Iliana, Firestar, Amara, Juliana, or maybe Boom-Boom or Rictor from X-FACTOR.

Finally, give us some background on Captain Britain and make Kitty more interesting. Give her a personality defect or something, anything.

Just some fan ideas from a fan. I loved every detail — the best blend of great talent.

J.D. Naylor
4141 W. McDowell #106
Phoenix, AZ 85019

Don't worry, J.D., you'll be learning plenty about both Captain Britain and Meggan in these pages — as well as Kitty, Nightcrawler, and Phoenix. And you'll be quite surprised at how much you still don't know about all of them — or their role in mankind's destiny! But we can honestly promise you that you're going to have a lot of fun finding out!

Dear Newest Mutant Bookmeisters,

I bought EXCALIBUR thinking that it had better be worth \$3.25. It was! And, here's why —

First — great story! I just read X-MEN #227 and it meshed perfectly with it. The story was nice and action-packed. I was expecting a long, dull story where everyone moped around filled with grief over the X-Men's supposed deaths. The Technet was one of the most interesting, weird and original, bad dude groups I've ever seen. (Loved the New World take-off.)

Also, the art was great! Alan Davis and Paul Neary never turn in a bad job. The coloring was superb and the whole book had a fresh, clean, crisp look about it. I think the art was at the peak of perfection in the part where Phoenix escaped into London chased by the Warwolves.

I think that the first issue being in a Bookshelf Format was a great idea! When is the first issue of the regular series coming out?

Well, it was a great book and I just hope the rest of the series is as good. Oh, and my naive friend scoured the stands for a mint condition issue and then bagged it and put it away, unread. What a fool!

Hampus Petterson
10380 Bret Ave.
Cupertino, CA 95014

The new monthly EXCALIBUR series has officially debuted, Hampus, and Chris, Alan, and Paul have all signed up for the long run on this one! And they only get better and better every day!

Dear Ann,

The long-awaited debut of the newest mutant group, Excalibur, was a fairly auspicious beginning for the British-based team. It's nice to see the impact of the British creative contingent on the American comics scene reflected in a comic based over here — and one that, drawn by a British (if not a Londoner) artist team, should be free of the glaring misconceptions of Britain common in American portrayals of the country. We even have a British co-star, and Brian Braddock, for all his corny origins, does have the potential to become as famous a name as the better-known members of the team. It's also heartening to see Kitty and Rachel back in the limelight. Kitty and Kurt (and Colossus) have been all but forgotten in the last couple of years and, whereas I can see this as an understandable side-effect of the huge cast employed in the X-

books, they're still missed by the readers. Rachel's disappearance had never been explained, and she remains a woman of great mystery, fueled by remarks in the story about Mojo's plans for her. Even her arrival in our current time-stream or, more specifically, the paradoxes implied, have never been properly explained, and the proposed limited series hasn't come to light, so maybe this comic will also give us the opportunity to be shown more of her background, as well as more of her relationship with her parents-to-be. I presume that although the X-Men may be thought dead, X-Factor and Excalibur will know of each other.

The "Prestige" Format was well-deserved. A pity it wasn't around for some earlier stories set in Graphic Novel format. Alan and Paul are a fine team and this is, I think, their best work yet — and reproduced well on this better quality paper. The other thing that stood out was the quite beautiful coloring by Glynn. The opening page is typical of this, where a narrow range of colors is blended to good effect, and the entire comic is strewn with color effects that take advantage of the format perfectly.

As far as the story goes, I was a little confused by the large number of new characters being introduced, especially Garchaser's band. The Warwolves were pretty nasty emissaries of Mojo's to be flying around — I thought this was meant to be a more light-hearted comic. I also found the Phoenix effect that provided the backdrop for the final group portrait to be forbidding, considering its past implications. Is Rachel's Phoenix power the same as Jean Grey's, and if so, why shouldn't it also consume her? Also, her new costume is a throwback to her old days as a Hound, hunting mutants under the Sentinels, which I would have thought she'd want to forget. It is visually striking, though!

Will Excalibur make contact with their fellow mutant groups? I can see the need to let the comic develop its own identity, but at the same time there would seem no reason why Kurt and Kitty and Rachel wouldn't keep in contact with their friends in the New Mutants, and maybe X-Factor, too, now that they've gone public. Even the X-Men themselves must eventually come into the picture. In the end, I can see no reason why all four groups shouldn't work as branches of a larger umbrella organization, under the guidance of Magneto and Xavier, which would fulfill part of Charles's dream. The various titles would retain their individuality, as the two AVEENGERS booklets have done, as would the groups themselves. It would also give Art Adams even more characters to draw next time they all meet in some Annual. But, enough fantasy. I enjoyed the first appearance of Excalibur (not that they've named themselves yet), and look forward to seeing their regular adventures. Until then, take care...

Malcolm Bourne
87 Greenfield Gardens
Cricklewood, London, NW2 1HU, England

Sorry, Malcolm, Excalibur doesn't have time for any other mutant groups right now — what with the Crazy Gang lying in wait!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Sometimes I lose sight of what or whom I'm fighting for."

—Punisher

PUNISHER'S WAR JOURNAL #1

ITEM: He's faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, and it's his birthday! Yes, we're talking about Superman, that strange visitor from another planet who's celebrating his fiftieth anniversary in comics. We want to take this opportunity to congratulate our friends at DC COMICS and to wish the granddaddy of all super heroes a happy fiftieth. After all, if it wasn't for the success of Jerry Siegel's and Joe Shuster's most famous creation it's unlikely that there ever would've been a Marvel Universe! To

honor Jerry, Joe, and Superman, none other than Stan (the Man) Lee will be attending the International Superman Exposition June 18th in Cleveland, Ohio. May the battle for truth, justice, and the American way never, ever end!

ITEM: Dapper Danny Fingeroth, frazzled freelance writer about town, recently tied the knot with the ravishing Roni Cooper on May 28 in a small ceremony attended by family friends. Congratulations to the caving couple from Marvelites all over.

ITEM: And speaking of congrats, Charisma-

tic Chris Claremont, mutant book writer supreme, is beaming with well-deserved pride because *FIRST FLIGHT* (his very first prose science-fiction novel) just went into its third printing. Talk about a multi-talented threat, not only is Cheerful Chris one of the best-selling comic book writers of all time, but he's also scoring high as a legitimate novelist. What's next for the of charismatic one? Broadway? Hollywood? Or, do you think it's possible to convince him to write a fill-in issue of *HEATHCLIFF'S FUNHOUSE*?

PROFILES Gregory Wright

Managing Editor on: WEB OF FORTUNE (a choose your own adventure type Spider-Man book), MARVEL UNIVERSE Update, HERCULES Graphic Novel, THE BEST OF MARVEL COMICS VOL. TWO and some top secret stuff I'm plotting to do. Also, I'm still working with the now headless Mark Gruenwald on THE AVENGERS, SOLO AVENGERS, NICK FURY VS. SHIELD, and a Nick Fury-Wolverine graphic novel. Whew!

Marvel freelance credits (past): Colorist on so many single issues that I couldn't even begin to count. They include: SPIDER-MAN, X-FACTOR, FANTASTIC FOUR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, and some WHAT THE—? stories.

Marvel freelance credits (present): Colorist on MARVEL AGE, a couple of annuals, and anything else that needs to be done overnight. Writer on a few SOLO AVENGERS stories (Wonder Man — plug, plug), and a weird Nightmask story I'm doing with Kieron Dwyer.

My hobbies are: Making up obnoxious and sometimes vulgar comments to spring upon any and all unsuspecting (and suspecting) victims, viewing virtually every movie to hit the silver screen, music and cooking, getting unmercifully massacred at Scrabble.

The single work which I am most proud of is: I haven't done it yet, and when I do I will probably find something wrong with it.

My pet peeves are: Smokers, dopers, liars, cheaters, and racists. I have many more, but those are the top five.

My place of birth is: Er, ahem, Cleveland.

My greatest accomplishment outside of the comics field is: Fooling most of the people all of the time.

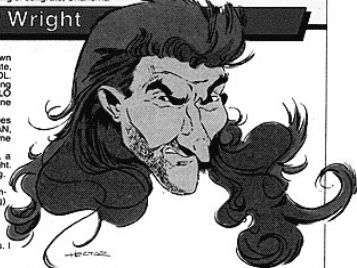
My oddest habit is: Eating weird food. Pepsi and Milk. Raw eggs. Bakony, cream cheese, cheese in a spray can, mustard and horse-radish all rolled up.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Sean Penn.

The reason I got into comics was: Hal Dan Chichaster did not have enough money for pizza one night. The next day, he got a job at Marvel. He got me my job. It's all his fault. Blame him. Send hate mail to Epic Comics.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Psychotic, strange, and wasting my time. But it was my time so...

My favorite performers are: DEVO, George Carlin, Robin Williams, Peter O'Toole, Marvin Gaye, James Brown, Blue Oyster Cult, Claude Bolling, Jean Pierre Rampal, and Andreas Vollenweider.



The last good book I read was: SOMETHING UNDER THE BED IS DROOLING.

The last good movie I saw was: Either ABOVE THE LAW, STARS AND BARS, or HOPE AND GLORY.

The biggest influences on my work include: Michael Curtiz, D.W. Griffith, Bill Watterson, David Lynch, Vittorio Storaro, Terry Jones, Don Martin, and a person or two who remain nameless, but they know who they are.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: It would be to write a book that no one expects. Something really strange and nasty. The kind of thing that is loved or hated, but never ignored.

The worst part of my job is: Not being able to work with as many of my favorite writers and artists as I would like.

When nobody's looking I like to: Be a nice, sane, considerate kind of guy.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I'm not neurotic. I border on psychotic and schizophrenic, with a touch of pyromania thrown in for fun.

HYPERT*BOX

* **THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #1** — As last — see the full origin of the Punisher, as he battles kidnapping, drugs, and murder! And don't miss a special guest comic everyone's favorite lawyer (Don Witburd Fear, Mark Furdock!) "An Eye for an Eye: Sunday in the Park" is written and laid out by Carl Pons, with finished artwork by Jim Lee. \$1.50.

* **THE SUB-MARINER Limited Series #1** — Get set for underead adventure both past and present as we relive the history of the first super hero of the Marvel Universe... and uncover a few never-before-revealed secrets along the way! Written by Roy Thomas and penciled by Rich Buckler. Direct sales only. \$1.25.

* **THE AVENGERS ANNUAL #17** — It's the wild wrap-up of the Evolutionary War! But who's going to fight it, considering that the Avengers have disbanded? Written by Walt Simonson, penciled by Mark Bright, and inked by Mike Gustavow. 64 pages. \$1.75.

* **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #8** — The High Evolutionary wants the secret of cloning. But when he kidnaps the clone of Peter Parker's dead girlfriend, Gwen Stacy, he discovers that she's not a clone at all! And waiting in the wings: Who are... the Young Gods? Scripted by Gerry Conway and penciled by Mark Bagley. 64 pages. \$1.75.

* **WOLVERINE #1** — Yes, it's the series you've been demanding! There's blood, sweat, and tears when Wolverine leaps into savage solo action, doing what he does best! Will Southeast Asia ever be the same after Wolverine comes to town? Written by Chris Claremont, penciled by John Buscema, and inked by AJ Williamson. 32 pages. Baxter paper. \$1.50.

* **DOCTOR STRANGE #1** — Fresh from his recent stint in STRANGE TALES, Doc returns to the pages of his very own series! But there's a time for celebration when Doc faces the return of his greatest foe — the Dread Dormammu! And you won't believe your eyes when you see how Dormammu returns! Love is the Spell and the Spell's Death is written by Peter D. Gilis, penciled by Richard Case, and inked by Randy Emberlin. Direct sales only. \$1.25.

